

November

Magic Lantern Society
of the United States and Canada

NEWS 2019



LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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November meals maybe not so thankful? Click image to find out



The Cinematography of the Clouds

From Laurent Mannoni

l.mannoni@cinematheque.fr

Conservatory of techniques

THE CINEMATOGRAPHY OF THE CLOUDS,
VIEW BY JAPANESE PHYSICIAN AND
METEOROLOGIST
MASANAO ABE

Conference with projections by Kei Osawa

An exceptional figure in nascent meteorology in Japan, Abe Masanao (1891-1966), from his beginnings in 1926, applied the cinematic techniques then in full swing to the systematic observation of clouds. From his observation post at the foot of Mount Fuji, he has tirelessly recorded, categorized, analyzed and reproduced in the laboratory the formation of clouds, while proposing numerous technical innovations in the cinematographic field. Through numerous documents from the huge Abe archive held at the University of Tokyo Museum, this illustrated conference traces its scientific approach and its privileged use of the film as a methodological tool.

Kei Osawa was born in 1984 in Japan. A graduate of the École Normale Supérieure de Paris, a researcher in History of Art and Aesthetics at the University of Tokyo Museum since 2008, his research focuses on the Japanese avant-garde art of the post-war period, beginnings of the science film in Japan and Sound Studies. He has organized several exhibitions, at the Intermediathèque (Tokyo) and elsewhere, on the relationship between Arts and Sciences.

French Cinematheque,
51 rue de Bercy Paris 12th

Friday, November 8, 2019, 2.30 pm



Illustration: Masanao Abe, Lenticular cloud on Mount Fuji, December 29, 1929. Silver photography © UMUT.

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The Newsboy's Debt and Other Lantern Readings

From



Graphic Arts Collection

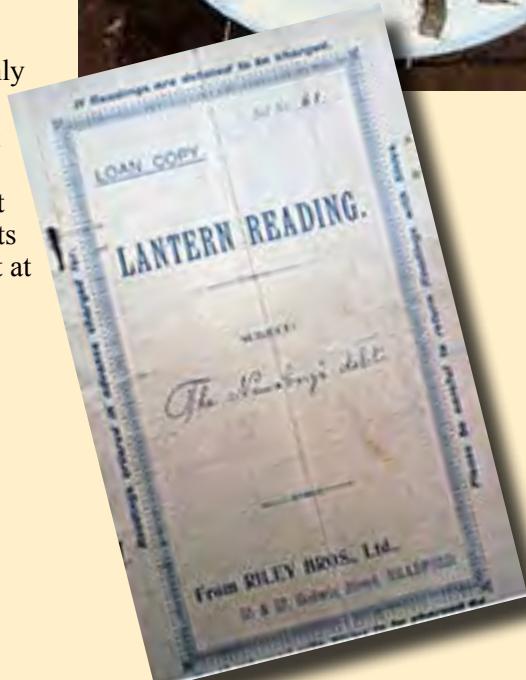
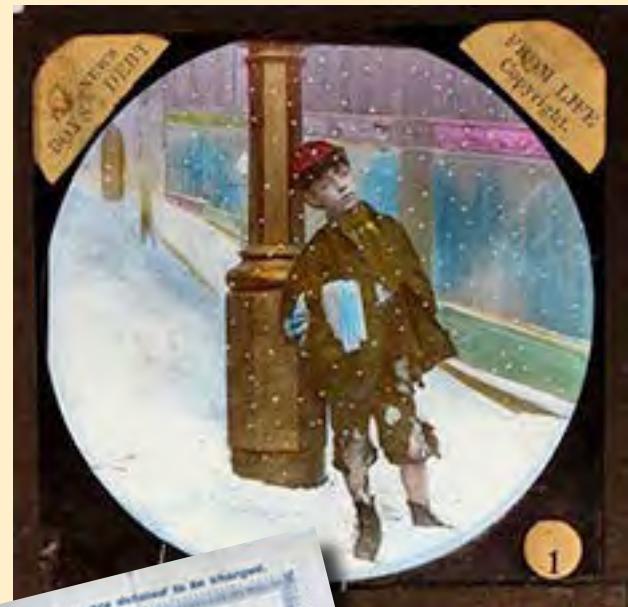
<https://graphicarts.princeton.edu/category/pre-cinema-optical-devices/page/2/>



The Lucerna Magic Lantern Website notes: No magic lantern show consisted of slides alone: there were always elements like music, audience participation, or the spoken word. Especially in the later nineteenth century, many slide producers published 'readings' giving a recitation, story, or lecture to accompany the slide images.

The Graphic Arts Collection recently acquired a dozen or so Lantern Readings, the text that accompanies a particular set of slide. As noted on the covers, the scripts could be borrowed for a performance and returned when it was done. Today, they can be matched with the Magic Lantern Society's Readings Library project, launched in 1995, which currently offers nearly 3,000 images, scripts, and music scores.

The Newsboy's Debt: [originally published by Hannah R. Hudson, "The Newsboy's Debt," Harper's New Monthly Magazine, May 1873]. Plot: A gentleman trusts a newspaper boy to get change, which he was to bring to his office. The lad, however, is run over, but sends his brother to say that when he gets well he'll work to refund the money lost at the time of the accident.



PART THREE

of a series

The Lundy Travel Bureau

From Tim Hughes



Over his many tours, Dr. Wilson Lundy was able to acquire two drawers filled with over 150 glass lantern slides of Japan. Most of the slides are purchased, with a few rare images taken by Lundy personally. Beautiful colored slides with images of Kyoto, Tokyo, hotels and other Japanese scenery and cities. Including Hakone and spectacular images of Mt. Fuji.

As one of Lundy Travel Bureau employees, or associates, one would be expected to keep a diary and write letters of the happenings, sights and sounds along your travels. Especially, as it relates to accommodations. In this article, we are melding the sights of 1920s Japan slides with excerpts from two 1953 letters written by a Lundy Travel Bureau agent named Margaret.



continued next page

Travel Bureau continued

Japan is a wonderful country for the tourist; the best in all the Orient from the point of view of beautiful scenery, excellent accommodations, delicious food (either European or Japanese) and for artistic manifestations—modern and ancient. It is reputed to be very expensive, and it is more costly than Europe, but you do get your money's worth, and a little thought about what you are about to do will enable you to travel about not too extravagantly.—If you do not buy out the country. Except for India I have never seen so many tempting shops. This is not the prostrate Japan I saw in 1947. This is a Japan as vibrant as Germany and just as determined to regain her place in the sun.



Lundy Travel Bureau group with Tame Deer at Nara, Japan c. 1920



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Travel Bureau continued

AKITO, April 26, 1953

Dear family and friends,

Today was a warm and sunny day; and I would venture to say that summer has come to Japan. Kyoto is a very attractive city; a much better indication of Japan than is Tokyo. For one thing, it suffered no bomb damage; nor has the occupation been so noticeable. One sees few soldiers today; and even fewer Europeans, tourists, or otherwise.

I visited the Imperial Palace, the Heian Shrine and the Geisha Girls Cherry Blossom performance today and after a bath and dinner I will be ready to conform to the Japanese custom of going to bed early. This amazing difference in time schedules as one travels from country to country plays havoc with any preconceived ideas as to what are proper meal and entertainment hours, etc.



continued next page

Travel Bureau continued

The ride over to Hakone is spectacular. One crosses a range of mountains, which on the ocean side, are heavily wooded with pine and bamboo forests interspersed with blossoming trees. At the top of the pass there was a spectacular view of Fiji, and soon it was shrouded with the usual clouds. The inland side of the mountains was bare and brown, still untouched by spring. Nestling among these rather barren hills is Lake Hakone.



You may also want to view the entire Lundy Travel Bureau glass lantern slide presentation of Japan online at Lundy Travel Bureau = 1929 Trip to Japan Glass Lantern Slides B&W to Hand Colored (<https://youtu.be/wvnptriCL0I>). This online video provides an excellent example of black and white slides transitioning before your eyes to color images.

What is This Device??

From John

Asian Experience Motorbike Tours tours@
asianexperience.com.au

Hi.

My 93 old mother in law has this device in an ammo box from WW2. It's a very well made, precision instrument with adjustable knobs - similar to the slide projectors to help with focusing. Appreciate if someone could let me know what it is and if it is of any value.

Appreciate if you could let me know what this device is....and does it have any value??

Thanks.

John



Hi John

It is a Victorian (or slightly later) magic lantern projector. It would have been used to project glass slides measuring 3 1/4" x 3 1/4" or 3 1/4" x 4" that would have fitted a wood slide holder that was placed in the gap between the big (condenser) lens and the spring-loaded plate. The lens at the front is the projection lens that would have focussed the image on the screen - as you say, similar to the later 35mm slide projectors. It was probably originally illuminated by a multi-wick oil lamp with a tall metal chimney that would have passed through the large rectangular slot at the top. Later it was probably fitted with an electric light bulb. Judging by the chrome plate finish, it probably dates from about 1900-1920. The material it is constructed from is so-called Russian Iron, though not actually from Russia. It could be English or possibly French. Hard to say which.

It would have some collector value in UK or North America, but I am not familiar with the lantern market in Australia. I guess probably similar, as we have some members in Australia.

I hope this helps a little. Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans

Christmas Magic Lantern Slides?



From Madelon J

found.sealed.delivered@gmail.com

Hello. I found a box of slides and I have been trying to research them. It seems like it is actually 2 sets that came in the same wooden box. I believe they are Magic Lantern slides. One is a set of 6 for a sing-a-long to Jingle Bells. The other is a set of 24 (slide 23 is missing) entitled The First Christmas. I used a whiteboard app on our iPad and took some simple pictures that I have uploaded on Google Drive <http://bit.ly/MagicLanternSlides>.

During my research, I found your organization and was hoping that someone could help me learn more about the slides.

I appreciate your time and any assistance you may be able to offer.

Madelon

Hello Madelon

They are certainly magic lantern slides. The National Pictures Service of Cincinnati, OH is noted as a manufacturer of magic lanterns such as the Great National No. 1 Stereopticon, which was available as a slide projector or a film strip projector. It dates from early 20th Century. Judging by the slide mounts on your slides I would think they also date from early 20th Century. I have checked a couple of resources - Lucerna and the (British) Magic Lantern Society Slide Library but neither mention a 24-slide set of The First Christmas.

We will add your request to our monthly E-Publication in the hope that one of our members can add to this information.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans
Secretary
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

Magic Lantern Identification

From Gordon McCalmont

gordonmac@sky.com

Dear sir or madam,

My wife has recently been given the magic lantern and slides that she used to watch as a young child (several years ago!) It is painted black, battery powered and has four sets of glass slides.

Having looked inside it would appear that a large battery would have powered it but it also looks as though there are terminals for a second battery.

As we have no idea how the lantern is powered I wonder if you could suggest someone that I could contact for advice? I could send some photos to help explain the problem.

We would be grateful for any help or advice that you could offer.

Yours sincerely

Gordon McCalmont



Thank you David. Having searched the internet your organization was the only one that I came across that offered some hope.

I have attached several photos with a tape measure to give an idea of scale. The slides appear to be made of glass and are approximately 5 1/4 inches by 1 1/2. As you can see there are three packs of Snow White, one of The Night Before Christmas and two loose slides of the Big Bad Wolf with Little Red Riding Hood.

Having 'looked' again I now see that the lantern is stamped with 'Made in Czechoslovakia' written in English on the back and there's an on/off switch on the front. The original cardboard box has a very faint design on it but appears illegible.

If you or any of your fellow enthusiasts could help in identifying how to power up the lantern that would be great. We'll probably never use it again as we don't have grandchildren at the moment and our 32 year old daughter probably won't be over excited about it.

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Magic Lantern Identification continued

In anticipation I've already picked out a spot on the wall where I will project the images for the first showing of Snow White for maybe forty or so years. So no pressure on you guys!

Thank you again for the offer of help.

Gordon

From David Evans

Hello Gordon

That is a "Mickey Mouse" Toy Magic Lantern. There should be a paper label on the back with a picture of Mickey, the title and reading "Produced by special arrangement with Walt Disney by Ensign Limited, London W.C.1" Mine is just stamped 'FOREIGN' just below the label. In the third picture the circular black cylinder with the glass lens attached should be removeable (try twisting it) and the slide holder, shown attached to the projection lens, should be attached to the removeable cylinder by the small tab strips. The lens nearer the lamp is the condenser lens.

Mine has an optional screw-on bulls eye lens that can be placed in front of the bulb after removing the projection unit, thus making it a small flashlight. The lamp bulb (in mine) is 2.5 volt at 0.3 Amp. This is probably not original - I would have expected a 3.5 volt bulb. It would have been lit by a flat 4.5 volt battery with two brass strips facing each other on the top of it. One would have



contacted the clip in top left corner, the other bent round underneath the flat plate at top centre. It would have been normal to over-run the bulb to give a brighter light, though it would shorten the life of the bulb somewhat. These batteries have not been available for many years (maybe 20 years or so). I suggest you perhaps fit one of the new, bright LEDs in place of the bulb and bring its wires out of the back somehow. Try not to modify the metal box though, as these units are quite collectible these days. Perhaps just don't shut the back fully?

Mine also has a rectangular stand (flat plate with rectangular hole and four tabs bent up, so that the unit can be pushed into these and then it can stand up on a table.

Mine came with several sets of Mickey Mouse slides in packs.

Don't expect overwhelming performance!

Regards

David

A Big Thank You to the following:

contributing to this months issue.

David Evans
Tim Hughes
Madelon J
Laurent Mannoni
Gordon McCalmont
James Vendeland

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

E-mail Larry



Moving Picture World 1908



Darker Magic Lantern Kaleidoscope

From James Vendeland

jlvende6@gmail.com

Hello,

I am a collector of kaleidoscopes and recently purchased a c1880 C & Darker kaleidoscope lens. I am in the process of obtaining a kaleidoscope chromotrope slide which will have the same function as an object chamber in a conventional kaleidoscope. But my greatest challenge will be finding a Magic Lantern projector which will be compatible with my kaleidoscope lens. I assume I will need to find a craftsman who could design a metal connector for attaching my lens to the projector.

I would appreciate any suggestions regarding obtaining a suitable Magic Lantern projector and a craftsman who could fabricate a connector. Being a Clevelander I did contact Larry Rakow who is a member of your group and has a couple of these lantern projectors. Unfortunately they were not compatible.

Sincerely,

Jim Vendeland

Cleveland
Tel: 440-985-8695
Jlv6@att.net

Hi Jim

I think we communicated about this before? Indeed your greatest challenge will be to find a lantern to fit. I also have a projecting kaleidoscope, though unsigned, so may be a clone of Darker's design. I also have about 30 or so lanterns. I checked which ones the kaleidoscope would fit, and it came down to two. One is a "Boy's Own" lantern, marketed by that magazine in UK to its readers. The other is a larger unsigned one. I don't know of anyone able to make up adaptors but suggest we could put your request in our next E-Publication. If you are able to measure the diameter across the threads of your kaleidoscope then that might help find a lantern to fit, if anyone has one. It would need to be within a thousandth of an inch or so to be helpful. You would need a scientific instrument maker to produce an adapter. I don't know if any are still extant these days.

I wish you every success.

Regards

David Evans
Secretary
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada